

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03

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R 260819Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1031

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EALR, ECEM, BTIO, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 2808 (B) KUWAIT 1166 (C) STATE 60379

1. EMBOFF HAS HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES MFO ATEEQI HAS INVITED TOP W.R. GRACE OFFICIALS RETURN TO KUWAIT TO DISCUSS THEIR PROPOSALS FOR PETROCHEMICALS PLANT HERE PRODUCING BENZENE, XYLENES AND PARAXYLENES.

2. WE HAVE ANOTHER REPORT FROM A GOOD SOURCE THAT A GROUP OF EXTREMELY POWERFUL KUWAITIS HAVE SUBMITTED A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO GOK FOR A PETROCHEMICALS PROJECT TO PRODUCE PARAFFINS AS A POSSIBLE FIRST STEP IN A PETRO-PROTEIN PROJECT.

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GROUP ALLEGEDLY INCLUDES LEADING MEMBERS AL-SABAH FAMILY

(A SON OF THE AMIR) AND RELATIVES AL-ATEEQI. GROUP IS SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING WITH AN ITALIAN CHEMICAL COMPANY IDENTIFIED TO US AS C.T.I.P. AND A U.S. ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION FIRM WHOSE IDENTITY WE ATTEMPTING TO LEARN. GROUP IS REPORTEDLY PUSHING HARD TO GAIN QUICK APPROVAL FOR THEIR PROPOSAL.

3. COMMENT: WHILE KUWAITIS TRADITIONALLY SLOW TO MOVE ON MAJOR PROJECTS, IT SEEMS CERTAIN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS HAVE APPROVAL FROM ALL QUARTERS AND SCRAMBLE IS ON AMONG COMPETING GROUPS TO GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION. SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT IN MIND THAT GULF OIL COMPANY REPS HAVE BEEN HERE RECENTLY TO DISCUSS PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS.
STOLTZFUS

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